

REMARKS

A. Overview

The present application includes claims 1-18. With this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 15-17 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. As such, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12-14, and 18 are pending in this application.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner indicated that claims 12-14 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With this Amendment, Applicants have presented claims 12 and 18 in independent form. Claims 13 and 14 continue to depend from claim 12. Further, Applicants have amended claims 2, 3 and 5 to depend from claim 12 and claims 6 and 9 to depend from claim 18. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12-14 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

C. Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 15-17 were rejected by the Examiner under various rejections. In order to expedite the issuance of a patent and without acquiescing in any of the various rejections, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 15-17 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

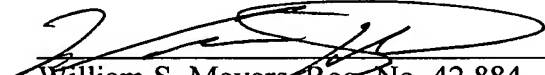
D. Final Remarks

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12-14 and 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, please consider this a Petition for Extension of Time to effect a timely response. Please charge any additional fees or credits to the account of Baker & Daniels Deposit Account No. 02-0390.

In the event that there are any questions related to these amendments or to the application in general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions directly in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,
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